

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4271

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, TH, CB, VS, LA

SUBJ: ETHNIC CHINESE PAROLE APPLICANTS

REF: STATE 216684

1. REFTEL ADVISED THAT "ETHNIC CHINESE" PAROLE APPLICANTS (AND ETHNIC CHINESE ALONE) SHOULD PRESENT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP OF LAOS, CAMBODIA, OR VIETNAM AND OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CLAIMED RELATIVES IN THE U.S. IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THEIR PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

2. IF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL ARE STRICTLY OBSERVED, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE BY PERHAPS HALF ITS ESTIMATES OF CAMBODIANS WHO MIGHT QUALIFY FOR PAROLE. PAST EXPERIENCE HERE INDICATES THAT MOST CAMBODIANS WHO APPLY FOR PAROLE ON THE BASIS OF U.S. RELATIVES ARE ETHNIC CHINESE, AND REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA, REGARDLESS OF ETHNIC ORIGIN, SIMPLY DO NOT OFTEN HAVE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF NATIONALITY AND RELATIONSHIP.

3. WE DO NOT WISH TO DISCOUNT THE VERY REAL PROBLEM OF FRAUDULENT U.S. RELATIVES ENCOUNTERED BOTH AMONG ETHNIC CHINESE AND AMONG VIETNAMESE APPLICANTS. HOWEVER, IN MANY CASES, THE INTERVIEWING OFFICER HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE "ETHNIC CHINESE" APPLICANT IS AN INDOCHINESE REFUGEE: HE SPEAKS CAMBODIAN WITH A NATIVE ACCENT (AND PERHAPS

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CHINESE AS WELL); HAS PROBABLY LIVED IN CAMBODIA ALL OF

HIS LIFE UNTIL ITS FALL, AND HAS NO APPARENT TIES TO TAIWAN OR HONG KONG. LIKEWISE, THE INTERVIEWER MAY BE SATISFIED OF THE EXISTENCE AND STATUS OF THE U.S. RELATIVE EVEN WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF. YET THE AFFIDAVIT WHICH SUFFICES TO ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE CLAIMED U.S. RELATIVE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OF OTHER ETHNIC ORIGINS, (UNLESS THE INTERVIEWER HAS REASON TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE), IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR ETHNIC CHINESE. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO TELL SUCH PEOPLE (MANY OF WHOM ARE SPONSORED BY VARIOUS CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS) THAT THEY MAY NOT BE PAROLED BECAUSE THEY ARE ETHNIC CHINESE AND LACK THE DOCUMENTARY PROOF WHICH IS NOT REQUIRED OF ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CLARIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION OF REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT.

4. WE ARE ALSO UNSURE TOHWHOM THE LABEL "ETHNIC CHINESE" AND HENCE THE RIGOROUS STANDARD OF DOCUMENTARY PROOF SHOULD APPLY. THEREFORE, A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF "ETHNIC CHINESE" IS REQUESTED.
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